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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**MARCH 20, 2016****MIDWEST VETERAN'S CONFERENCE TO BE HOSTED AT IU SOUTH BEND**

South Bend, IN. – The Military Family Research Institute at Purdue University (MFRI) has elected to host its 6th annual conference in South Bend, Indiana at IU South Bend. MFRI, in partnership with IU South Bend Student Veteran Organization (SVO), will be welcoming veteran students representing their SVO's from around the nation. The weekend will kick off with a networking reception on Friday, April 22nd, 6:30 p.m. at the Woodward (111 Woodward Ct, South Bend, IN 46601). Brian Pawlowski, Director of Community Investment and Director Business Development for the City of South Bend will be delivering opening remarks at the reception. Saturday's (April 23rd 9a.m.) training sessions will begin with an introduction and welcome address by IU South Bend Chancellor Terry Allison.

Presenters on Saturday include:

- Eli Lilly Corporation
- Student Veteran Association
- Team Red White & Blue
- MFRI

Other presenters include leaders from around the nation on topics covering: community engagement, creative marketing, and telling your story.

"We were very pleased to be chosen as the host site this year amongst some other top universities, said SVO President Zachary Quiett. "We're excited to bring this unique opportunity to IU South Bend and show the student body, the South Bend community and our visiting universities, what kind of student veterans IU South Bend has. We hope many student vets can take advantage of this opportunity."

With the continued influx of veterans into higher education, it is important for SVOs to develop the skills necessary to support the transition of their brothers and sisters in arms and create an

environment that is sustainable for a successful campus-based organization. This conference will offer an intensive and interactive professional development experience for today's veteran as well as strengthen the ability of veteran program administrators to better serve the growing population of student veterans.

More information and complete details concerning the conference can be found online at:

<https://www.iusb.edu/succeed/student-veteran-organization-conference.html>

About Student Veteran Organization: The SVO is a student-run group on the IU South Bend campus. We are a chapter of the Student Veterans of America (SVA). The mission of IUSB SVO is to promote the success of military service members and their family and facilitate a positive transition to academic and civilian life

About the Military Family Research Institute at Purdue University: The Military Family Research Institute (MFRI) at Purdue University focuses on issues that affect service members, veterans and their families. Working to shape policies, programs and practices that improve their well-being. We use research to provide invaluable insight to organizations that have the capacity to deliver effective outreach and programming to meet real military family needs. MFRI is a "force multiplier" for the support of military families. Founded in 2000, MFRI is located within the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in the College of Health and Human Sciences at Purdue University.

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